



licences

## The licensing system

The Northern Territory (NT) licensing system helps to make travel on our roads safer for all road users. It provides rules and conditions for licence holders and penalties for drivers who do not meet their responsibilities. This system also ensures that all licence holders have demonstrated the required knowledge and skills to safely operate the vehicle they are licensed to drive or ride.

To drive on public roads in the NT you must be licensed and have the correct licence class for the type of vehicle you are driving.

**To legally drive a heavy vehicle on public roads in the NT the following applies:**

- you must have the right class of licence for the vehicle
- for NT residents you must hold a current NT licence
- for visitors from interstate you must hold a current interstate licence.

**You cannot drive on public roads in the NT if you have:**

- a licence that is expired
- a licence that has been cancelled or suspended by the MVR or equivalent interstate or overseas licensing authority
- been disqualified from driving by a court of law in Australia or overseas.

### Heavy penalties apply for driving a vehicle without a licence.

A visitor to the NT is permitted to drive in accordance with the terms and conditions of their interstate or overseas licence. A visitor to the NT is deemed a person who is temporarily in the NT for a period of three months or less. **If you have been in the NT for more than three months and wish to continue to drive, you must apply for an NT licence.**

As a driver of heavy vehicles, you have additional obligations and responsibilities to the people you share the road with.

A heavy vehicle driver licence carries additional responsibilities. Like your car driver licence, it is a 'contract' or agreement between you as a driver and the rest of society. However you must also meet certain conditions and rules that apply only to drivers of heavy vehicles. This handbook contains information that will guide you towards the skills and knowledge you need to drive a heavy vehicle.

For more information on your car driver licence, refer to the Road Users' Handbook.

## When your licence is checked

Police and authorised officers check that you have the correct licence when:

- you are involved in a crash, whether you were at fault or not
- you have been stopped because you committed a traffic offence
- you have been stopped for a random breath test or drug screening test either by a stationary testing unit or by a mobile testing unit
- you have been stopped at a weighbridge or roadside vehicle compliance audit.

## Medical fitness to hold a heavy vehicle licence

All drivers and riders must be medically fit to drive a motor vehicle and are subject to personal and legal responsibilities and liabilities.

A medical condition does not necessarily mean that you cannot be licensed.

In reality, very few conditions prevent the issuing of a driver licence.

In the Northern Territory all drivers or intending drivers must notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles if they have any medical condition (including disability, mental illness or eyesight) that could affect their ability to safely and legally drive a motor vehicle. Health professionals are also required to report any affected patients if they believe that the patients' condition could affect their ability to drive a motor vehicle.

The MVR is responsible for issuing, renewing, suspending or cancelling a person's licence (including a conditional licence), and decisions are based on a full consideration of relevant factors relating to health and driving performance.

The NT has adopted the national medical standards for private and commercial drivers contained in the Assessing Fitness to Drive (AFTD) guidelines. The AFTD guidelines are available from the Austroads website [www.austroads.com.au](http://www.austroads.com.au). These standards apply to all licence holders.

If you have any questions about medical fitness to hold a licence, please contact the MVR on 1300 654 628 or consult your health professional for advice.

## Drivers with medical conditions

When you apply for a licence, you must state whether your medical condition could affect your driving. Depending on the condition, you may need to have an assessment of your 'fitness to drive' carried out by a health professional.

Certain medical conditions could require that you complete an on-road driving assessment with an Occupational Therapist who will assess your ability to drive in relation to your medical condition.

Many drivers with medical conditions find that they are allowed to drive, with conditions applied. For example, it is quite common for some drivers' licences to have a condition that they must wear glasses while driving or that they can only drive automatic vehicles.

## Driving and dementia

The gradual and permanent loss of mental functions caused by dementia will, over time, reduce a driver's ability to drive safely. In the early stages of this condition, doctors, family and friends should discuss alternative methods of transport for drivers showing signs of dementia.

Each person with dementia will have a different pattern and timing of their reduced ability to drive as their condition progresses, and some people may not need to stop driving immediately. Individual assessment and regular review are important, even though it is difficult to predict the point at which a person will no longer be capable of driving safely.

## Organ donation

The place to register your intention to be an organ donor is the Australian Organ Donor Register.

Organ donor information is available at [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au) or call **1800 777 203** for a registration brochure.

If you would like more information before making your choice, please contact Donate Life NT (the organ donation agency for the Northern Territory) at [www.donatelife.gov.au](http://www.donatelife.gov.au) or phone **08 8922 8349**.

## Licence classes

The NT has different licence classes for the various types of motor vehicles that use Northern Territory roads.

To be allowed to drive or ride you must hold the correct licence class for that vehicle.

The list below shows the type of vehicle you can drive under each class of licence.

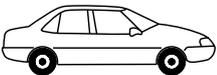
### Rider (R)

- Any motorcycle or motor tricycle.



### Car (C)

- A vehicle that is no more than 4.5t Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM).
- Holders of a C class licence may also drive some civil construction and agricultural vehicles (see nt.gov.au for more details).



### Light Rigid (LR)

- A vehicle that has a GVM of more than 4.5t but not more than 8t (GVM).
- Can tow a trailer of no more than 9t Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM).
- Holders of an LR class licence can also drive any vehicle allowed by a C class licence.

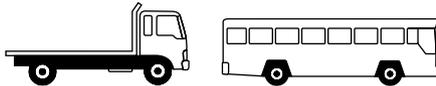


### What you need to get this licence

- Have held a class C licence, (except a learner licence) equivalent to one year or more;
- Pass a knowledge test (read section on Knowledge tests); and
- Pass a practical driving assessment.

### Medium Rigid (MR)

- A vehicle that has two axles and has a GVM of more than 8t.
- Can tow a trailer of no more than 9t (ATM).
- Holders of an MR class licence can also drive any vehicle allowed by an LR or C class licence.

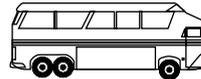
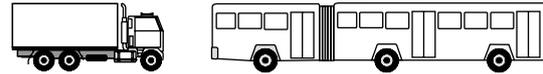


#### What you need to get this licence

- Have held a class C or LR licence, (except a learner licence) equivalent to one year or more;
- Pass a knowledge test (read section on Knowledge tests);
- Pass an eyesight test; and
- Pass a practical assessment.

### Heavy Rigid (HR)

- A rigid vehicle that has three or more axles and a GVM of more than 8t.
- Can tow a trailer of no more than 9t (ATM).
- Can drive an articulated bus.
- Holders of an HR class licence can also drive any vehicle allowed by an MR, LR or C class licence.



#### What you need to get this licence

- Have held a class C licence, (except a learner licence) equivalent to two years or more, or held an LR or MR licence for at least one year;
- Pass a knowledge test (read section on Knowledge tests);
- Pass an eyesight test; and
- Pass a practical driving assessment.

### Heavy Combination (HC)

- A prime mover attached to a semi-trailer (plus any unladen converter dolly).
- A rigid vehicle towing a trailer of more than 9t (ATM).
- Holders of an HC class licence can also drive any vehicle allowed by a HR, MR, LR or C class licence.



#### What you need to get this licence

- Have held a class MR or HR licence for one year or more;
- Pass a training course; and
- Pass a practical driving assessment.

### Multi-combination (MC)

- Any B-double or road train.
- Holders of an MC class licence can also drive any vehicle allowed by a HC, HR, MR, LR or C class licence.



#### B-double



#### Road train (two or more trailers)

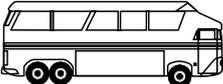
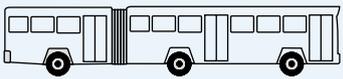
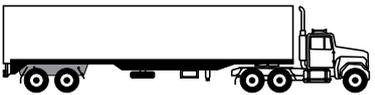
#### What you need to get this licence

- Have held a class HR or HC licence for one year or more;
- Pass a training course; and
- Pass a practical driving assessment.

This list indicates what class of licence allows you to drive the vehicle shown.

Common vehicle types	Specifications	Class LR	Class MR	Class HR	Class HC	Class MC
 Rigid 2 axled vehicle	GVM greater than 4.5t but less than 8t	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
 Rigid 2 axled vehicle with Pig Trailer	GVM greater than 8t, and trailer to 9t - providing GCM is not exceeded, no longer than 19 metres	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
 Rigid 3 axled vehicle	GVM greater than 8t	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES

Common vehicle types	Specifications	Class LR	Class MR	Class HR	Class HC	Class MC
 <p>Rigid 3 axled vehicle with Pig Trailer</p>	GVM greater than 8t, and trailer to 9t - providing GCM is not exceeded, no longer than 19 metres	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
 <p>Rigid 3 axled vehicle with Dog Trailer</p>	GVM greater than 8t, and trailer to 33t – providing that GCM is not exceeded, no longer than 19 metres	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
 <p>Rigid 4 axled (twin steer) vehicle (See Note 2.)</p>	GVM greater than 8t	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
 <p>Rigid 2 axled bus (See Note 1.)</p>	GVM greater than 8t, and trailer to 9t – providing GCM is not exceeded	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES

Common vehicle types	Specifications	Class LR	Class MR	Class HR	Class HC	Class MC
 <p>Rigid 3 axled bus (See Note 1.)</p>	GVM greater than 8t, and trailer to 9t – providing GCM is not exceeded	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
 <p>Articulated 3 axled bus (See Note 1)</p>	GVM greater than 8t	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
 <p>Articulated vehicle with 2 axled trailer</p>	GVM greater than 8t, and trailer greater than 9t GVM – providing GCM is not exceeded, no longer than 19 metres	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
 <p>Articulated vehicle with 3 axled trailer</p>	GVM greater than 8t, and trailer greater than 9t GVM – providing GCM is not exceeded, no longer than 19 metres	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES

Common vehicle types	Specifications	Class LR	Class MR	Class HR	Class HC	Class MC
	Multi-combination ("B-double") <b>Cannot exceed 25 metres</b>	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
	Multi-combination (Articulated Vehicle with 1 Dog Trailer)	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
	Multi-combination (Articulated vehicle with 2 Dog Trailers) <b>Cannot exceed 53.5 metres</b>	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

NOTE 1: A licence "h" endorsement is required to operate for Hire and Reward.

NOTE 2: A higher licence class may be required if towing a trailer with a ATM greater than 9 tonne.

## Ways to get a heavy vehicle licence

1. For class HC and MC undertake training and assessment with an approved training provider.
2. For class LR, MR and HR undertake training and assessment with an approved training provider or undertake practical driving test with an authorised heavy vehicle driving examiner.

Approved training providers and authorised heavy vehicle driving examiners can be found on the [nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au) website.

## Knowledge tests

You must pass a heavy vehicle road rules theory knowledge test before you undertake a heavy vehicle driving test. The knowledge test pass result is valid for 12 months. If you do not upgrade your licence within 12 months of passing the knowledge test, a further knowledge test will be required.

The knowledge test assesses what you know about the general road rules as well as rules which relate only to heavy vehicles.

To prepare for the knowledge test you should study this handbook carefully and the Road Users' Handbook; all the information you need to pass the knowledge test is covered in these handbooks.

You can test your driver knowledge by taking the practice knowledge test on the [mvr.nt.gov.au](http://mvr.nt.gov.au) website.

A knowledge test is required if entering the rigid heavy vehicle licence classes of LR, MR or HR or the articulated heavy vehicle licence classes of HC or MC for the first time.

If you are upgrading from a Class LR or MR to a higher rigid heavy vehicle licence class a knowledge test is not required. For classes HC and MC the knowledge test is completed through your approved training provider before you take the practical driving test with an authorised heavy vehicle driving examiner.

## Learning to drive

You can learn to drive a heavy vehicle on your current licence if you are eligible to apply for the particular licence class. You must be accompanied and supervised by a person who has the class of licence for the heavy vehicle you want to drive, or a higher class of driver licence.

While you are learning to drive, a "Driver Under Instruction" sign must be displayed at the rear.

### Approved training providers

An approved training provider is a person or organisation that has been approved by the MVR to deliver driver training programs for licensing purposes throughout the NT.

After completing your training with an approved training provider you will need to pass the practical test with an authorised heavy vehicle driving examiner.

The training provider will issue you a Statement of Attainment or Certificate of Competency and the heavy vehicle driving examiner will issue you a practical test sheet. Bring these to an MVR office within 12 months of the issue date. Your licence will be issued on payment of the prescribed fee.

## Driver training lessons

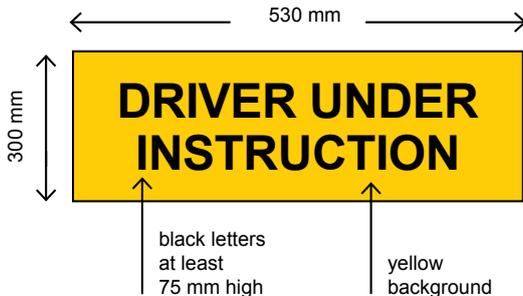
How you are taught to drive is extremely important. For that reason a training course with an approved training provider who is aware of modern driving practices and training techniques is highly recommended.

It is important that you find a training provider you are comfortable learning with. If for any reason you are not comfortable with your chosen training provider, you can change providers.

## Supervised driving practice

While you are learning to drive a heavy vehicle it is strongly recommended that you get as much supervised driving practice as possible.

Even if you are having professional driving lessons you will benefit from supervised driving between your lessons.



A "Driver Under Instruction" sign must be displayed at the rear of the vehicle you are learning to drive.

## Driver training

All practical heavy vehicle driving assessments are recorded by the authorised heavy vehicle driving examiner. A camera will record the road environment in front of the vehicle during the assessment and you will both be recorded inside the vehicle.

If you pass a driving test in a vehicle fitted with an automatic or synchromesh gear box you will be restricted to driving these types of vehicles (with the exception of Class LR and Class MR). To have the condition removed you have to pass a driving test in a vehicle fitted with a non-synchromesh gear box.

The driving test assesses your ability to drive safely and competently. During the test you will be required to demonstrate safe load restraint techniques and perform certain manoeuvres. Test manoeuvres may include:

- long reverse
- bus stop skills
- reverse park
- U-turn (three-point turn)
- kerbside stop
- pre-departure check
- coupling or uncoupling.

## Fail and immediate fail items

During the test, you can be failed for doing anything that is unsafe or against the law.

## Test vehicle

- In all cases, the vehicle must be a registered, roadworthy vehicle of the correct class for the licence being sought. The vehicle must also provide appropriate seating, i.e. approved seat and seatbelt in good working order for anyone in the vehicle during the test.
- Where any doubt in relation to roadworthiness exists, the test will not proceed.
- A “Driver Under Instruction” sign must be displayed at the rear.

General information regarding suitable vehicle types for assessment against each relevant heavy vehicle licence class is below:

### Multi-combination (MC)

- A Heavy Combination vehicle with more than one trailer. The combination must be at least 22 metres in length.
- The minimum vehicle type for an MC is a three axle prime mover with at least two semi-trailers each with at least two axles.

### Heavy Combination (HC)

- A vehicle consisting of a prime mover and a semi-trailer. The prime mover must have a minimum of three axles and the semi-trailer a minimum of two axles. The vehicle must have a GCM rating of at least 24 tonnes; or
- A Heavy Rigid vehicle which is towing a trailer. The trailer must have at least two axles and a (trailer) GVM of 12 tonnes or more.

### Heavy Rigid (HR)

- A rigid vehicle, not being an unladen prime mover, with a minimum of three axles and a minimum 15 tonnes GVM; or
- A modified three axle prime mover with a certified detachable tray (with the capacity to carry 75% of its specified GVM) with a minimum GVM of 15 tonnes; or
- A three axle articulated bus; or
- A three axle bus above 15 tonnes GVM.

### Medium Rigid (MR)

- A two axle rigid truck, not being a prime mover, above 8 tonnes GVM; or
- A two axle bus above 8 tonnes GVM.

### Light Rigid (LR)

- A rigid truck or bus above 4.5 tonnes GVM but less than or equal to 8 tonnes GVM.

## Assessments in a loaded vehicle

Vehicles used for the practical driving test must be loaded to at least 75% of the maximum mass allowable for the vehicle to be driven on public roads. This is at least 75% of either the Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) for rigid vehicles or Gross Combination Mass (GCM), for articulated or heavy trailer combinations. The vehicle must be able to maintain adequate road speed.

All loads must be positioned and secured appropriately. **Refer Section 7 of this handbook for information on securing loads.**